

The Senate Defence Committee and a number of experts recommended in 1983 that the *Aurora* LRPA fleet should be increased from 18 to 36, that the force of coastal patrol aircraft should be maintained, and that a modern replacement should be obtained in due course for the existing *Sea King ASW* helicopters. However, instead, the *Aurora* fleet has remained unaltered and the 18 *Tracker* coastal patrol aircraft have been retired. Some *Challengers* may be assigned to coastal patrol duties, but a new coastal patrol aircraft is now an uncertain proposition. A replacement for the *Sea King* helicopter will doubtless proceed, though probably looking to an off-the-shelf model rather than the custom-built, heavy helicopter apparently envisaged until recently by the defence establishment.

Ten Tactical Air Group (10 TAG) provides much of the close air support for the army, including "airlift of personnel and supplies within fields of operations and reconnaissance, observation, fire direction, liaison and similar missions on the battlefield (*Military Air Transport*, p. 49). It appears to be equipped, for these purposes, with up to 44 *Twin Huey* battlefield transports, and 36 *Kiowa* light observation models. In addition, there are 16 *Kiowas* with Air Reserve Group, and another 12 with 444 Squadron in Canadian Forces Europe. There are also 7 *Chinook* medium transport helicopters, but these are now being phased out and placed in storage.

The Senate Defence Committee indicated that 60 new observation and reconnaissance helicopters and at least 35 battlefield transports would need to be acquired in the 1990s to replace the *Kiowas* and *Twin Hueys*. The cost was estimated at \$900 million for the former and \$700 million for the latter. However, the numbers of tactical air squadrons in 10 TAG, the Air Reserve and Canadian Forces Europe have to be related to possible changes in the land forces. The tactical helicopter requirement could diminish if, for example, some or all of the land forces were withdrawn from Europe and if there were related adjustments in Mobile Command in Canada.

The remaining major component of Canada's air defence forces is One Canadian Air Division in Europe (1 CAD). This consists of three squadrons, but recent indications